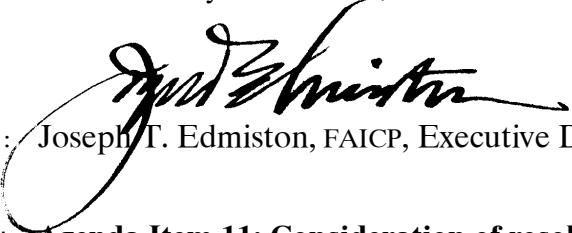


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 25, 2004

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of Pacoima Wash-San Fernando Airport Development property (APN 2513-033-006, 2513-033-007, 2513-033-008), City of San Fernando, contingent upon Attorney General approval.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$560,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of Pacoima Wash-San Fernando Airport Development property (APN 2513-033-006, 2513-033-007, 2513-033-008), City of San Fernando, contingent upon Attorney General approval.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code. Section 79508, 79570(c) of Water Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for Proposition 50 funding in the sum of \$560,000 for the Pacoima Wash-San Fernando Airport Development acquisition. The proposed acquisition would protect land and water resources and it is in the upper Los Angeles River Watershed and the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.

The subject 2.97-acre property is located within the densely populated residential areas of the City of San Fernando. The subject property, consisting of three parcels owned by San Fernando Airport Development, is unpaved vacant land located on the northwest edge of Pacoima Wash and directly south of Foothill Boulevard. The property is surrounded by industrial, retail, auto service and single family residential land uses. The MRCA plans to develop a natural park in the subject property and a portion of the 2.79 acres may be reserved for future channel naturalization of the Pacoima Flood Control Channel.

The Pacoima Wash Greenway is a 3-mile long series of natural open space to protect Pacoima Wash's land and water resources, extending from the Angeles National Forest and the Rim of the Valley Trail to the communities of the northeast San Fernando Valley. The Greenway project includes opportunities for infiltration of storm water, creation of wetlands, restoration of riparian habitat, enhancement of an urban habitat corridor, and creation of a pedestrian and bicycle trails. The City of San Fernando is now working with stakeholders to define specific

projects that will implement the Pacoima Wash Greenway. The subject acquisition is the first in a series of acquisitions planned along Pacoima Wash and is the first step toward creating the proposed Greenway. Completion of the subject acquisition will secure open space for a community that has not been included in recent greening endeavors in the Los Angeles area.

The proposed acquisition is consistent with the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) Chapter 10, Section 79508 and Section 79570(c), and is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. It is consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Acquisition of the subject property would implement the Conservancy's Strategic Objective to expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment by acquiring or creating parkland in urban areas that lack open space or parks.

The proposed grant has not yet been reviewed by the Attorney General's office. The grant would be given only if the Attorney General finds that the proposed grant is in compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law.

Consideration: The grant to the MRCA is \$560,000 to be used for fee acquisition, closing costs and project transaction costs.